Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 50.3

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

Change terminology used in the rule so that it is consistent with the ERS.

Proposal – Alternate 1

Change rule 50.3 as follows:

(a) No sail shall be sheeted over or through any device that exerts outward pressure on a sheet or clew of a sail at a point from which, with the boat upright, a vertical line would fall outside the hull or deck, except:

(1) over or through a bumkin used to sheet the boom of a sail;

(2) over or through a boom of a boomed headsail that requires no adjustment when tacking; or

(3) as permitted in rule 50.3(b) or 50.3(c).

An outrigger, except as permitted in rule 50.3(b) or 50.3(c). An outrigger is any fitting or other device so placed that it could exert outward pressure on a sheet or sail at a point from which, with the boat upright, a vertical line would fall outside the hull or deck. For the purpose of this rule, bulwarks, rails and rubbing strakes are not part of the hull or deck and the following are not outriggers: a bowsprit used to secure the tack of a sail, a bumkin used to sheet the boom of a sail, or a boom of a boomed headsail that requires no adjustment when tacking.

(b) Any sail may be sheeted to or led above a boom that is regularly used for a sail and is permanently attached to the mast from which the head of the sail is set.

(c) A headsail may be sheeted or attached at its clew to a spinnaker pole, or whisker pole, provided that a spinnaker is not set.

Current Position

See above

Reasons

1. Removes definitions from the rule that were in conflict with the ERS.

2. Aligns the rule with the ERS but the rule is still a stand alone rule (for those races not using the ERS).
Proposal – Alternate 2

Change rule 50.3 as follows:

50.3 Use of Outriggers

(a) No sail shall be sheeted over or through an outrigger, except except as permitted in rule 50.3(b) or 50.3(c). An no sail shall be sheeted to, over or through an outrigger is any fitting or other device so placed that it could exert outward pressure on a sheet or sail at a point from which, with the boat upright, a vertical line would fall outside the hull or deck. For the purpose of this rule, bulwarks, rails and rubbing strakes are not part of the hull or deck and the following are not outriggers such a device: a bowsprit used to secure the tack of a sail, a bumkin used to sheet the boom of a sail, or a boom of a boomed headsail that requires no adjustment when tacking.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

3. The definition of ‘outrigger’ in current rule 50.3 is much broader than the definition of ‘outrigger’ that was adopted for the ERS last year. The proposal achieves the purpose of the submission, while making as few changes as possible in current rule 50.3. The proposal does not make any change in the requirements in rule 50.3, which is desirable because current rule 50.3 is, essentially, a class rule for all classes and rating systems.

To save readers searching for new ERS definition of ‘outrigger’ adopted in 2018 as a result of Submission 121-18, it is copied below:

F.1.4(c)(iv) OUTRIGGER
A hull spar extending transversely to sheet a sail and/or attach running rigging.